BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Nani Roxburgh, 75, homemaker

> *"Those days, lot of peddling went on. We had a lady come around selling flowers. I remember my mother always bought flowers. We had the cracker man. He was coming around on the wagon saying, 'Cracker, cracker.' We used to buy crackers off of him."*

Nani (Espinda) Roxburgh, Hawaiian-Chinese-Spanish-Irish, was born September 8, 1910 in Waikīkī, O'ahu. The family home was located near where the 'Ilikai Hotel is today. Her parents were David Akana Espinda and Molly Ryan Espinda.

Roxburgh lived in Waikīkī until 1926, when the family moved to Bingham Tract. In 1934, she married John A. Roxburgh and moved to Moanalua.

Roxburgh attended St. Mary's Mission, Ka'ahumanu Elementary School, McKinley High School, and Normal School. She received her degree from the University of Hawai'i in Elementary Education in 1933.

John Roxburgh, formerly superintendent for the Damon Estate, passed away in 1984. Nani Roxburgh today lives on the grounds of Moanalua Gardens.

She has four children and enjoys watching sporting events.

Tape No. 13-6-1-85

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Nani K. Roxburgh (NR)

March 5, 1985

Moanalua, O'ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mrs. Nani Roxburgh on March 5, 1985 at her home in Moanalua. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay. Mrs. Roxburgh, can you first tell me when you were born and where you were born?

NR: Okay. I was born September 8, 1910 at Ala Moana.

WN: What part of Ala Moana?

NR: Well, we called it Kālia, Waikīkī.

WN: You told me a story once about your birthday being--you thought it was October or something? You want to tell me about that?

NR: Well, I always thought that my birthday was October 10. My mother never corrected me until it was time for me to get my Social Security [and] Medicare (at age sixty-five).

I also thought all the time that I didn't have a birth certificate. I only had a baptismal certificate. So, [when] I was going to graduate [from high school], I wanted my name to be correct on my diploma. [Even] when I went to Normal [School] everything was October 10 up until I was sixty-five.

WN: Why did you think it was October 10?

NR: My baptismal certificate said, "Birth: October 10." Evidently, it was the day I was baptized rather than the day I was born.

(In) those old days, I was born at home by the midwife. Evidently, my father reported my birth [to] the Board of Health (late). He didn't have to go right away [to report] like you do at the hospitals, I guess. So he waited till the time was right or (when) he was going to be in town, and he went and reported it.

WN: So you celebrated your birthday when you were . . .

NR: All the time on October 10. Wrong! (Laughs) I used that date. Even my children got confused. In the beginning, they said, "Ma, we don't know which birthday to celebrate--October 10 or September 8." But now we've gotten used to it, you know.

WN: So now you celebrate it as September 8?

NR: Uh huh [yes]. It made me a month younger or older. I don't know which.

(Laughter)

WN: Younger.

NR: Older.

WN: Older, that's right.

NR: Anyway.

WN: Tell me something about your father.

NR: Well, my dad was a taxi driver. He used to drive tourists. Sometimes, the taxi drivers used to go down (on) boat days and stand and call, like how the greeters go out to the airport now with the things like this and hold up. [NR holds up hands above head.]

WN: With the signs.

NR: (No, with hands.) "Taxi! Taxi!" I watched him one time. I went out to the waterfront. I watched him. "Taxi! Taxi!" Then the tourists used to come out. Those days they stayed [in Hawai'i] longer. Most of them were more affluent. They stayed either at the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel]. No, first was Moana [Hotel]. Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] was built later [in 1927]. He'd sometimes come home and didn't get a fare. Sometimes no money. But when he got a good person sometimes they'd rent his taxi for the week. He'd drive them around the island and all over. He'd get paid by the week.

Sometimes we had food. Sometimes no food. Then we'd go fishing for food. As a result of his being a taxi driver, I'm getting ahead of myself, but my brother and I were given a free trip to the Mainland by ship. We went on the Calawaii and came back on the City of Honolulu.

WN: How did you get a free trip?

NR: This man was a department store owner in Los Angeles. A Mr. Ralph Walker. Well, to make (a long story short), my dad thought it would be a good idea if we went to meet them. He wrote to my dad and

said he was coming back and was bringing a party of ten. These were all people from the store. He owned the store.

So my dad said, "(It) would be (a) good idea if we made leis and we went out on the tug." Well, we went out outside of the harbor. We went up the ladder. I was seventeen then. My brother "Lippy" was thirteen. I had a basket of (fifty) leis. My brother carried a basket of (fifty) leis. We had ten leis for (each of) those ten people. We didn't pay for it. He paid for it. They were so impressed. So he asked my mother if he could take us [to the Mainland]. In the meantime, my mother was going away to see my brother Stanley graduate from St. Louis University. She left us here. Mr. Walker wrote and told us how to act, what to wear and not to worry. He sent the tickets and everything. My mother had Hawaiian Trust Company taking care of her stuff (and paying her bills).

(At that time) I was in McKinley [High School]. You know, we were young. We didn't know table manners so well. My teacher at McKinley [High School] took me and taught me how to use utensils. We never had all the fancy utensils. [She] taught me in the home economics class.

So we made the trip. It was like a Cinderella story. One man took my brother, and (Mr. Walker's) wife and the sales lady took me in the dressing room. They brought all the clothes in the room. That stands out. All my life, I remember that. She bought me dresses, hiking boots, panties, everything (a girl needed). We were going to go to Yosemite and she knew exactly what all the other girls or ladies were going to wear. She wanted me to have different (things) from them.

First, we went to their mountain home in Big Bear (for a weekend). In the meantime, my mother had gone to (my brother's) graduation. On their way back to Honolulu, they stopped and came up to Big Bear (to join) us before we went to Yosemite. Then my mother and father came home (to Honolulu) by ship. We stayed on. We were there (for) three weeks.

While we were there, he always took two college students and paid for the rest of their education. They waited on tables in Yosemite. The people that we met there became our friends. (We corresponded for many years after that.)

WN: What was your father's name?

NR: David Akana Espinda. Just like "Lippy" [i.e., the real name of NR's brother, "Lippy," is David Akana Espinda, Jr.]

WN: What nationality was he?

NR: He was Spanish-Hawaiian-Chinese.

WN: You said he was a taxi driver and he went to (greet) the boat. This is where, at Honolulu Harbor?

NR: Yeah, down Pier 11, Pier 10, Pier 7, Pier 8 like that. (He had his stand on the corner of Bishop and Hotel Streets.) And sometimes, (he took) businessmen Downtown home. They didn't have as many cars, only streetcars were running.

My mother stayed home. She was home up until I think I was in the sixth grade. Then she decided we didn't have enough money. She'd go to work. She went to [the] YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] and learned to be a practical nurse. I had to help her with spelling. I helped her with her class work at that time. She got her license and she went to work at the insane asylum. We called it the "insane asylum." It was on Lanakila [Street] where Maluhia [Hospital] is now.

WN: What was your mother's name?

NR: Mary Emelia Espinda. "Molly" was her nickname. Everybody called her "Molly."

WN: And her maiden name was?

NR: Ryan. R-Y-A-N.

WN: What nationality was she?

NR: She was Irish-Hawaiian. But according to the article I was reading, her ancestors were English, too. So you know, Caucasian-Hawaiian.

WN: The house that you grew up in on Ala Moana Boulevard [near] Hobron Lane, can you describe it? What it was like?

NR: Well, like most of the older houses, it was a rambling sort of thing. We had a (big) kitchen on one side. Then a big parlor. Then [next to] all the bedrooms on the other side and in the front facing Ala Moana was a long lanai. Not wide but long lanai that went into all the bedrooms. Then we had one bedroom on the beach side. We could go down to the beach from that one bedroom. We stepped down (to the) dining room (which was) on the beach side. We had a large (front) yard (on the Ala Moana side). Next to us was an empty lot on (the 'Ewa) side. On this other side [Diamond Head] was where the empty lot and the Huddys and the Clarkes built. (They came in) later (when I was a teenager).

WN: So the 'Ewa side from your house was . . .

NR: Empty lot and we had banana trees in there. My father (also) planted vegetables. We'd go around the neighborhood selling his string beans (and anything he grew, such as Chinese cabbage and bananas). Anything we could sell we would be selling. We (also) picked kiawe beans (in season) from the empty lots all along there. We'd sell

kiawe beans for spending money.

WN: To who?

NR: Well, kiawe beans we sold to the feed company. My dad took it. And when we were real small, the ships used to burn coal. We'd go along the beach and pick coal. And sell the coal by the bags.

WN: Who did you sell the coal to?

NR: I don't know where my father took it. But for the ships, they used it over evidently. But they bought it.

WN: Did your father give you any money for helping? To spend?

NR: I can't remember. I think he did.

I went to St. Mary's Mission to school first. We never had kindergarten.

WN: Where was St. Mary's Mission?

NR: It's still on King Street between McCully and the old stadium. The church looks like---it's still there. (I went there) till I was going into the fourth grade, I think. Then I went over to Ka'ahumanu [School].

WN: So besides kiawe and coal, anything else you sold or gathered?

NR: The vegetables. Bananas if we had plenty. Those days, lot of peddling went on. We had a lady come around selling flowers. I remember my mother always bought flowers. We had the cracker man. He was coming around on the wagon saying, "Cracker, cracker." We used to buy crackers off of him.

The manapua man had manapua and he had laiki loloa, they call it. Laiki loloa was long rice (mixed with) 'opaes (and green onions). And na'au pua'a. The man used to say, "Na'au pua'a!" That was [pig] intestines cooked with lū'au leaves. The people used to buy. Everything was hot, (and he) carr(ied) it on (his) shoulders. (He carried two containers, one had manapua and the other had either laiki loloa or na'au pua'a.)

WN: So he had manapua in one container and na'au pua'a . . .

NR: Yeah, that kind of stuff. Manapua man. Those are the two I remember. And ice cream man. All (horse and) wagons, you know.

WN: The flower lady, how did she come, how did she sell?

NR: (She carried one) basket on her shoulder. Once in a while, we'd buy. (She was a Japanese lady who wore a scarf over her hair.) We never could afford very much. But my mother was always trying

to help somebody. She'd help them out.

We had a luau. I was five years [old], I remember. My brother Alfred was a year [old]. [It] was his first birthday. That's the time I told you we had a luau and they saw a school of fish way out (past Pierpoint). I don't know how they could tell. This old man Kaimi could tell when he looked at (the rippling of) the water. "Everybody," my mother said, "we all have to go and help." Everybody left. The grownups left. They went out with the nets and they surrounded the school of 'ōpelu. And they just left [the net] there. They came back and partied some more. Then the next day, they went out and gathered the fish. I remember that very well. Because, I think, my dad had brought some tourists to the luau. If I remember well, he drove Mary Pickford. They came to the party. (He drove a lot of wealthy people who would hire his services for one or two weeks during their stay.)

WN: Mary Pickford came?

NR: Yeah. They just stayed (a) little while and then went. He also drove, I don't know who. She was an actress (Gilda Grey). She took my cousin, (who was a good hula dancer), to the Mainland to dance the hula.

But most of the time, we just played, played. Besides doing your work of course, cleaning house and whatnot. My oldest sister (and I) had to clean house and go to school (because there was a large age difference between myself and my youngest sister). (We) walked to school and walked home. We never rode (the) streetcar (because we) couldn't afford it. But (we) walked up Kalākaua Avenue to Ka'ahumanu School (via King Street). On the way, we picked mangos or whatever. (There were) all Haoles living up Kalākaua Avenue (between Beretania and McCully Streets). All nice homes.

WN: You mean along the beach?

NR: (That part of) Kalākaua Avenue (wasn't along the beach). On the beach (side on Ala Moana Road) was (mostly) Hawaiians. (Laughs) There (were) some Japanese in Hobron Lane. My uncle Kalau used to come down (and) go fishing. They used to lay nets, you know. Fish was really abundant.

WN: Did your father fish?

NR: Not my father. He was a taxi driver. He didn't know how to fish. My mother did the fishing.

WN: What could you catch out there by your house?

NR: They walked way out, they'd get seaweed. They'd go out (and catch) manini (from) the holes. They'd go out squidding. There's shrimp and mullet. Used to catch mullet out there. Hawaiian clams. Not the kind we buy (at) the market now. The Hawaiian ones were a

little bit bigger.

WN: They used to be right in the sand over there?

NR: Yeah. Right outside of the house. I never walked out more than twenty feet from the edge of the beach. We also caught black crabs. In the mud they'd dig holes (and) we'd catch 'em. When we were kids, we'd have more fun catching sand crabs and making a little bonfire and throwing the crabs on and watch 'em wiggle. We couldn't eat 'em because they said they were poisonous, the sand crabs. But later on, I learned. My mother used to catch 'em at night and put 'em in a gallon can of water under a faucet and let the faucet run on them all night. I don't know, it kinda took the poison (out) and then they'd eat 'em raw. Clean 'em and serve at a party, luau.

We had supposedly the best limu 'ele'ele. That's the green long hairy limu. People from town used to come and bring their lunch. They'd go and pick. This was where the [Ala Wai] Canal was out that side. We'd walk down and go out. It was shallow. I'd go and help pick too, and come back. The ladies would all---my mother would put out a lau hala mat and they'd all sit down after lunch and clean limu before they went home. Some of them came from far, Kalihi and places like that. Everybody took what bag they picked and went home. It was a delicacy.

WN: Did they do it a lot? Or once in a while?

NR: Yeah, once in a while. Not a lot. We did it a lot. Then when the canal came, that wiped it all out.

WN: Before the canal came up, then had a lot of limu?

NR: Oh, yeah, all kinds. What you call ogo now. Different kind that we mix all together. At certain times of the year, we'd catch Chinese shrimp that looks like the kind of shrimp we eat now. Big ones.

WN: How did you catch shrimp?

NR: Well, we made a net with two sticks. One on this side and would maybe cover an area from here to there.

WN: About what? Nine feet?

NR: Yeah, with a bag at the back. One person would be at each end . . .

WN: Holding the stick?

NR: Holding the stick. And then maybe several of us would be in the front, loosening up the sand with our feet.

WN: And how deep is the water?

NR: Shallow sometimes. Only up to here.

WN: Your knee?

NR: Yeah. We'd stir up the sand and then they'd come behind us. You'd be surprised. And the great big ones, my dad would take to market to sell. The others, we'd eat. Cook 'em. Fry 'em.

Sand dabs. My mother used to spear in the morning.

WN: What is that? Sand dabs?

NR: Hawaiians call 'em "pāki'i." They'd go in the sand like that. We caught 'em down Mokulē'ia too. You had to have a good eye. She [mother] would go with a spear. The water would be so clear early in the morning she could tell by the shape of the sand where the head was and she'd spear 'em. Otherwise, you'd be walking along and step on one. You'd feel it wiggling under your feet. You could put your hand down and grab 'em and pick 'em up. Small kind, not big ones. We used to dry 'em or we fry 'em crisp and eat 'em.

WN: After the canal came up, what, had less fish?

NR: Yeah, of course. It spoiled the fishing. You had to go over the canal to get to the reef outside. [Today,] if you go down Ala Moana in front of the 'Ilikai, the reef is way outside. They [have to] go over the canal now to get out on the reef.

WN: Before that was all shallow.

NR: Yeah. When it's low tide. When it's high tide, well, it got a little high.

WN: You were telling me something about during high tide. What happened to your house?

NR: The water went underneath [one of the bed]rooms. You could hear the swish. [NR makes rushing water sound.] [The house] was high enough, though. That part was elevated, [but] the front part of the house was on dry land.

WN: Whose room was that?

NR: I think the boys had that room. We had a a big punee [which] could sleep about five or six. Hawaiian punee, with the four posts. We had only one, two, three bedrooms. Then I think my mother added on that other room.

Told you about when my grandpa came to stay with us--Hobron?

WN: Oh. Tell me about him.

NR: Well, by then he was really old and my mother took care of him.

He couldn't walk. My mother used to have a rocking chair out on the porch. She'd sit him out there so he could watch people. I'd go to school and come home and I'd rock him back and forth. He had a hernia or something. He couldn't walk. He lived with us till, I think I was at Ka'ahumanu School. I must have been about the sixth grade when he died. I remember. He was a Haole man.

WN: And your mother was his stepdaughter?

NR: Yeah. But see, she was the oldest in the family.

WN: What was Mr. Hobron's first name?

NR: Ebenezer Coit Hobron.

WN: So, he owned a lot of that property in the area [i.e., the Hobron Lane area]?

NR: Yeah. It was his estate.

But going back to when I started school. I went to school, as I said, at St. Mary's. My sister was there too. Then I went to Ka'ahumanu [School]. I don't know how come my sister went to Mō'ili'ili School. But my sister used to play hooky a lot.

(Laughter)

NR: She was older. First thing you know, I caught up with her, 'cause she wasn't interested in school, let's put it that way. She was more interested in boys, I think (chuckles). Anyway, I finished Ka'ahumanu [School].

We were the first freshman class in the present McKinley High School. We only had the auditorium and the two side buildings from King Street. There was no grass. We had to have "Campus Day" so we could plant the grass.

My freshman year [or] my sophomore year, one of those years, they started to build [the] Punchbowl [Lookout]. From McKinley High School, we lined all the way up to Punchbowl and we passed stones like the Menehunes. That's how they started that wall up there--Punchbowl Lookout.

WN: How many of you were there?

NR: Oh, the whole school. We always had "Campus Days." Each class would see who could clean the best and (so forth). My class, class of '28, had a good football team. We had a good baseball team. I can't remember people from my class who became businessmen and all that. [Former U.S. Senator] Hiram Fong [class of '24] and them were ahead of us.

I graduated and went to the Mainland, you know, on that trip. I

went to visit UCLA [University of California at Los Angeles]. My mother wanted me to go. [But] I had already been accepted at Normal, and I had a boyfriend back here. I wanted to come home (laughs). So, I came home and went to Normal and finished. Then I went to the University [of Hawai'i].

WN: Getting back to your house . . .

NR: You like my house, yeah?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

NR: It was an old rambling house.

WN: Did they do a lot of pole fishing [in Waikīkī], too?

NR: We used to go [to Fort] DeRussy. At certain times, they had schools of fish. They always said that some ali'i had died, that's why the fish came in. Hawaiian superstitions. They used to pole fish off of Pierpoint. And outside [the reef], I guess, [they did] more net fishing 'cause [it was a] long ways to go out. And that old man Kaimi I told you about (who) lived next door to us--after the empty lot--used to go out squidding nighttime. He'd go out in the evening and come back in the morning. Stay out all night by himself, one man on the canoe. I marveled at that man.

WN: He used to sell his catch?

NR: Yeah, take it to market. He had one son and two daughters. [His son once] got tied up in the canoe. He almost died, you know. I don't know what happened. He tangled himself up so bad with all the ropes. Finally, somebody found him in his father's canoe in the yard. They had to untie him. He was skinny, skinny, skinny, you know. But they were our closest [neighbors]. In those days, my mother and Mrs. Kaimi would iron clothes with [a] charcoal iron. No electric iron. We didn't have TV. We didn't have radios, either. My mother bought a gramophone, the kind with the horn. We had that for music. That's about all.

WN: Tell me something about the parties that were---you told me about the luau but . . .

NR: Yeah. And they'd have political gatherings. My mother was more or less the grassroots worker in the neighborhood. She knew everybody and signed them up to vote. In those days, [there was] lots of hoopla. They'd have precinct meetings in our yard.

WN: What party was this?

NR: Republican. Oh, definitely, never heard of anything else but Republican when I was growing up. We had the biggest yard that was all open. We didn't have a lot of plants and stuff so that they could have a pitched tent and have a party there. So they would

have precinct meetings in our yard. They (brought) the chairs and everything. Those days, (they had a) soapbox (where) the speakers used to come and speak and everybody in the neighborhood came.

Election time, they'd hire my father's taxi to go pick up voters (and) take them to vote. The precinct was up at Kalākaua Avenue, right up there by McCully [Street]. That's where the voting booth was. And leis. Free lunch. And we'd go collect cards (in) those days. They don't have cards now. Those days you'd go see how many cards you could get from the different candidates. We'd come home and everybody would have their cards and we'd exchange . . .

WN: What you mean? Campaign cards?

NR: Campaign cards, campaign buttons, campaign ribbons. You name it, they had.

WN: Who were some of the politicians that came to your house?

NR: Well, those days, I remember Mayor [Fred] Wright. Mayor [Charles] Arnold. And the representative, David Trask, even though he was a Democrat. Monte Richards was a strong Republican. The outside island ones, I can't remember the names. They used to have music and hula dancing.

I remember going to the Republican rallies. They always had a Democratic rally and a Republican rally at 'A'ala Park. One would be at 'A'ala Park and one would be someplace else. That went on till midnight. Sometimes it's a day before the election, I think.

They [also] had the soapbox downtown. Every lunch hour, they had a soapbox down by Bethel Street. They'd get up there and give speeches.

WN: When you say "soapbox" was it really . . .

NR: Was a platform. They called it "the soapbox." During election time, that was famous. Everybody went to listen to them. [J.] Ah Sing was [a] noted [politician] because he spoke broken English. He couldn't speak English very well. (Laughs) He was like [NR's brother] "Lippy." You could imitate him.

WN: He was Chinese?

NR: Chinese-Hawaiian. The representatives, I kinda forgotten who they were. Jack Waterhouse, I remember, always used to come 'cause he was active in Republican politics.

WN: And used to have food too?

NR: Oh, yeah, they supplied the food, you know. Sold cold drinks and they even supplied lunch for the workers in the booths. The candidates could go in the booths with their leis on [and] shake hands with all the workers. All that is stopped now, you know.

WN: You also told me that when they were building the canal . . . .

NR: You see that picture where the dredger is [1930 photograph of Kālia area, showing dredger], I'll tell you where we jumped off from. Where's that picture? You see, we used to climb up to here and jump off.

WN: Oh. How high is that?

NR: Oh, I don't know. That's that straight part of the dredger. This is the part that used to pump the water out and go through here and come out. Then they had to go all in here to fill all this.

WN: Where Ala Moana Shopping Center is now?

NR: Yeah. That's all filled with coral [dredged from the Ala Wai Canal].

WN: So this dredger was right outside your house, looks like?

NR: First, they were in here [near the present site of the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor].

WN: Right at the mouth of the canal.

NR: Yeah. This is where we used to go swimming, over here. Right where the road is [now].

WN: So now, that's where the Yacht Harbor is? Ala Wai Yacht Harbor? You used to swim over there?

NR: Oh, yeah, it was clean water 'cause [it] was deep. The ocean water came in.

WN: This was after the canal was built or before?

NR: While they were building, as they were going along. When they first started. Chee, I don't know when they started 'cause I was small when they started. [Dredging of the Ala Wai Canal began in 1921.]

WN: Early 1920s maybe. So before they built the canal it was shallow water over here [i.e., near where the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor is today]. And after building it, it became deep.

NR: This was land. (NR points to photo.) They dug through but that was all land, rice fields, (and) duck ponds.

WN: There was also a river that flowed right by your house?

NR: No. It came out over here. [NR is referring to Pi'ināi'o Stream.] We went over there to catch black crabs and 'o'opus and all that kind. And then when the heavy rains (came), the river would overflow all the duck ponds. That's when the catfish and stuff like that came down [the stream].

WN: What's over there now where this river is?

NR: I don't know. They covered it over, I think. That's where Waipuna [an apartment building on John 'Ena Road] and all that is now.

WN: Like Tahitian Lanai [today located in the Waikikian Hotel]?

NR: Tahitian Lanai is this [ocean] side. Tahitian Lanai is where the Harbottles lived.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: So did you do a lot of swimming?

NR: Yeah, (when) we were kids, we used to play tag in the water. Like they say, "Marco Polo" now in the swimming pool. We used to play "master" and all that kind when we (were) swimming, chase one another. We'd swim in the shallow water sometimes. It's close to shore.

WN: Did you race?

NR: Swimming, no. We weren't that competitive. More fun stuff, we played. We had regular [foot] races. I remember this man used to give us prizes if we won the race. He was an army colonel or something. He lived with the Vidas 'cause Dykes [i.e., Earle Vida's stepfather] was an army man too. This man was a bachelor so he'd spend his money on the kids in the neighborhood. We used to have good fun.

WN: Where did they have the races?

NR: Hobron Lane. From our road, Ala Moana, down to the beach was that right-of-way that I showed you. Well, we made a sand pit down on the beach, (and) we'd put a board across. That was the broad jump pit--running broad jump and standing broad jump pit.

Then up the road was the different [distances], 100-yards, 200-yards, like that. And right around was the long-distance. You had to run around from [the corner of Ala Moana and] Hobron Lane right around 'Ena Road and came down back.

You know, where the [Aloha] Park was. I think Hobron Lane came out over there somewhere, right where the park was. In here [near the corner of John 'Ena and Hobron] was the Japanese camp. [NR points to picture.] See, to go to school, we'd walk out this way and go up [via Hobron, John 'Ena, and Kalākaua].

WN: So Hobron Lane and then 'Ena Road . . .

NR: Yeah, right around (and) come back to the corner [via Ala Moana], to the store. The store was the beginning and the ending [of the long-distance run].

WN: Kam Look Store?

NR: Later [it was called] Kam Look [Store]. Then, in the back of Kam Look Store--I don't know whose lot it was--they cleared it to make a park so they could play baseball and football and stuff like that. That's when they used to challenge the guys from the other side of Waikīkī. They had a baseball team [from] Kālia. My brother Stanley was a pitcher. Earle Vida was a pitcher. The Kahanamokus all played. They (went) over and played in [Fort] DeRussy in the baseball field. They were well known--the Kālia baseball team.

WN: Did you used to go watch?

NR: Yeah. We went to watch because my brother was a pitcher.

My mother was very athletic-minded. She was fond of athletics and she was fond of helping kids. Bingham Broncos, she helped them raise money to buy uniforms. Even when she got older, she was still interested in parks and recreation.

By the time I [graduated from] McKinley [in 1928], we [had] moved. When I was small [until age sixteen], I was down in Waikīkī.

WN: Right. Anything else you remember as a child growing up, what kinds of things you did?

NR: Well, aside from playing games and going to school and humdrum things, nothing much.

WN: So the foods that you folks ate was mostly fish and the things that you caught?

NR: Well, my dad went to market when he had a good job. He'd have money. He'd go to the market and buy. Those days, meat and stuff was so cheap. He did a lot of Chinese cooking so that we ate a lot of Chinese food, or Hawaiian. Haole too. Because we had a lot of kids [in the family], we couldn't afford to eat steak. But when it was a holiday, we'd have turkey. Those days, lot of things you could buy fresh, too. People raised turkeys.

WN: Did you folks raise anything like poultry or . . .

NR: Chickens, I remember. Nothing else. And then my father would kill 'em for Chinese New Year or something like that. But my memory is more, is here [Moanalua] after I got married [in 1934] and raising my children more. My husband (and I) raised chickens. Moanalua was rural, eh?

WN: Also, you remember the teahouse? Mochizuki Tea House?

NR: Yeah. I remember going over. We'd walk along the beach and go in through the beach way because you couldn't go in through the front way. They had a gate and the Japanese man would be over there. You cannot come in but we'd go around the beach way. It was all open. They knew us. They knew the kids in the neighborhood. Because most of the Japanese people came from elsewhere [i.e., outside of Waikīkī]. And when they gave out sushi and stuff, they'd give us, too. Of course, we stand over there looking poor, you know. So they couldn't help but give us, yeah?

(Laughter)

WN: Nationality-wise, what was it mostly your neighborhood?

NR: Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Haole. That's about all I remember. I don't remember any Filipinos.

WN: Portuguese?

NR: Portuguese, yes. Right across [from] our house. But mostly, like I said, Paoas, Kahanamokus, Simersons, Harbottles, Mochizuki. Then the Campbells. They had four houses in their yard. That's where Gay Harris lived. We called that "Campbell Court." I can't visualize them. The beach part, I can visualize. My mind draws a blank. I'm trying to think. Where the river came and the road came I know was [the] Silvas. Then (the) Opunuis moved in there. But from that portion till the end of the river where the road goes around, there was a house in there. I can't remember who lived there. There was a house in the back. I tried to get it from my sister. She said, "I'm worse than you. I can't remember."

I know I can picture that house. It had a long driveway (going) in. I can't remember Hobron Lane, the Chinese people that lived here. The Chings, I know, "Joe Black." And the Lings. Some of them went to school with me (at) the same time. We all went to Ka'ahumanu School. I know the Japanese camp. Plenty Japanese.

WN: The Mirikitanis?

NR: Evidently. That's what my sister said. The Mirikitanis.

(There was a) barbershop man that adopted a Haole boy (who) spoke Japanese fluently. He had reddish hair. I know what he looks like. But today, I couldn't tell you who he was. If my brothers were living, they'd know. Because he played sports with them, too.

Then, you went [on] 'Ena Road [which ended] right out to Kalākaua Avenue. Earl Baker's father [famous photographer Ray Jerome Baker] lived over there.

WN: Tell me something about that amusement park [called Aloha Park].

NR: They used to have carnivals over there, if I'm not mistaken. Fair,

like, you know. Then there was a ballroom, that round [building] was the ballroom. They had dances there to raise, I guess, money [for] whomever wanted to have a dance.

I know at McKinley that's where we had our graduation dance. Even at Normal School too, [and] St. Louis--they'd have their dances. All the high schools used to have. (It) was big and (had a) nice floor.

When they weren't using it for school dances, they used to have taxi dances. I think that's what they had.

You know the Shikata family? They used to own Barbecue Inn. I think you're going (to) hear [about them on] the other side of Waikīkī.

WN: Shikata?

NR: Yeah. "Joe Shikata," we used to call him. He played golf with my husband up (at) Moanalua all the time.

WN: How do you spell that last name?

NR: S-H-I-K-A-T-A.

WN: Oh, Japanese.

NR: Japanese. They used to put on bon dances over there [at Aloha Park]. Everybody went. The neighborhood was all invited every time. After the dance, you go to Barbecue Inn to eat. Everybody gathered there. All the younger set.

WN: What kind of food did they have?

NR: Regular restaurant food. Sandwiches, midnight snacks. That's (where) the younger set used to hang out. If you wanted to find University [of Hawai'i] football players, they were all at the Barbecue Inn. That's where the girls met the boys.

And also the Outrigger [Canoe Club] where we used to have dances. I used to dance a lot when I was in high school.

WN: In 1926, you left Waikīkī. Why did you have to leave?

NR: My mother built a new home. My mother came into her inheritance from the Hobron Estate so she built that home on Coyne Street [in Bingham Tract].

WN: And what happened to the land your old house sat on?

NR: They sold it. Then I heard the 'Ilikai Hotel came up (chuckles). I don't know what happened in between. I lost track after I moved out. I celebrated my sixteenth birthday at Bingham Tract, [but] I

didn't have a party.

WN: Who did your mother sell the house to?

NR: Oh, that land down there? Dillingham.

WN: Hawaiian Dredging [and Construction Company]?

NR: Hawaiian Dredging. They bought all that property. They [also] built Ala Moana Shopping Center.

WN: So between the time that your mother sold the land and the 'Ilikai came up [construction began in 1961], what was over there?

NR: I don't know. A man was building (a) boat. We used to go down watch him build the boat. We were out of there [by then]. I thought the name was Andre T-A-T-I-B-O [Tatibouet]. Two Frenchmen.

Whew! They took a long time. They were building a junk. I don't know where they got their money from. I don't know where they lived. Right in over there, I guess.

WN: So did Dillingham fill in the area?

NR: Our side was all fill. Afterwards, along there you see Kaiser Hospital [built in 1958].

Then there was another teahouse, my sister said. [It] wasn't Mochizuki 'cause they moved out. I don't know who it was 'cause I wasn't there [Ikesu Tea House]. Then there's now another building where they (are) putting the whales on the wall. The picture [mural]. I just saw it last week.

WN: What do you think?

NR: Nice! Very nice! Of course, they leave themselves open for crappy stuff, too, you know.

WN: So you lived in Waikīkī the time before the canal was built and then a little while after the canal was built. Besides some changes like the water and stuff, what other changes do you remember that the canal brought about?

NR: More buildings, I guess. I can't remember. I don't remember how far it went up by the time we moved out of there. It went up pretty far.

WN: The canal?

NR: Yeah. The streetcars were still running because when I got married [in 1934] they were still running. So the streetcars (were) still there. When we first went, they didn't have the wide McCully Street.

(It) was only (wide) enough for the streetcar tracks.

I can't think of---everything went on after I came in the late '20s, you know. I forgot about that 'cause I [moved to] Bingham Tract [in 1926]. I forgot about Waikīkī. Never went back there really. (But) we had good fun.

We had games. We never had to worry about too many cars for one thing. Nighttime we'd play hide-and-go-seek and we'd play seasonal games like "hallowea." You know what was "hallowea"?

WN: "Hallowea"?

NR: Yeah, we called it "hallowea." Filled Durham bags with rags and we had two [bags]. We (took) sides. If you hit the person with the bag--was soft, it wasn't hard--then they're it. You go on the other side.

Or we play "peewee." You know what "peewee" is?

WN: I think so.

NR: What?

WN: That's the one with the stick . . .

NR: Yeah. The broomstick, with my mother's broom. We asked her, "Can we have the old broom?" We sawed it and made a point. We'd have the little one. We'd have the long one. We'd have the one that you hit. Then you can go like that. You can do all kinds of [things].

WN: To keep it up in the air.

NR: Yeah. The longer you keep it [in the air] the more points you got. You put it in the hole and try hit it out of the hole.

We played marbles, of course. I played with the boys. I was a tomboy, I told you. We'd play that big circle one with all the pile [of marbles] in the middle and try to shoot 'em all out. We'd play the fish. That's the square one.

Then we also played with soda water caps. We made our own games. We'd draw a line and we see who could hit the line.

WN: Throw the soda water caps?

NR: Yeah. We drew a line here. You had to stand back of the line and throw and see who came closest to the other line on the other side.

WN: And if you win, what? You get a cap?

NR: Yeah, collect milk caps. Those days, (we) never had money. We had paper bus fare. Two for five cents. We used it to buy shave ice.

The shave ice wagon and the candy man would hang around the schools. They used to make the best milkshakes!

WN: Who used to make milkshake?

NR: The shave ice wagon. They shave the ice, put it in a glass, put the syrup and milk. That was milkshake in our days. Two cents half [for] one glass. One paper bus fare. (We) walked home, because we spent the money for the milkshakes.

WN: Where was this?

NR: At Ka'ahumanu School. I remember that. The candy man used to come down Waikīkī, down Ala Moana too. He was a short Japanese man. He had this strap over him and this tray, and he had taffy. He had the pink, the molasses and the white. My mother's favorite was molasses. When he'd come, she'd say, "Go and buy" and then she buys for us, too. It would be the molasses, the strawberry and the vanilla. He had a little hammer. It was a hard block. He'd tap, tap, tap and break it into pieces. And sell it . . .

WN: The block would be right in front of him?

NR: No, no. He had straps so that he could work from this tray. Nifty thing, you know. Oh, he was there for a long time.

It was hard [at first] but we used to put it in our mouth and chew it. Then it got soft like taffy. Was ono. The molasses was good. In fact, you see it now in the candy place where you go and buy candy, they sell taffy. But his was blocks of it. I don't know how he made it. He must have made it. Was good candy.

And what other games (did) we used to play? Oh, you know what's "tin can hide"? Well, we stand by the store and we have one guy (who's) strong. We used (a) small can (of) cream. Throw it as far as you can. The person that's "it" gotta go get the can, bring it back to the store and go find everybody. Everybody would be hiding. Behind my house. Behind the store. All over the place. It was actually hide-and-go-seek but different version.

WN: When you come back, you kick the can?

NR: No, you put the can down. You gotta leave it there. And sometimes if the person be out looking for the other one, somebody (who's) real close (can) come back over there, throw the can again. The person gotta go get the can again and bring it back, and then go look for the people again. Tricky!

WN: What you call that again?

NR: "Tin can hide." We use to play "steal eggs." You know how to play "steal eggs"?

WN: No.

NR: We have two teams. Draw one box. That's where your team would stay. Then on this other side, you draw another box. You have a pile of stones. That's eggs. The person on that side tries (to) steal your eggs and take it home. And vice versa. The one that gets all the eggs wins, see?

We had to make our own games. We made our own stilts (out of) the can cream with the glue (and) string. Till we could afford to find wood and make the regular stilts, we made our own stilts.

When we went to Ka'ahumanu School, we gathered these little red wiliwili seeds. You put 'em in your hand like jacks and drop 'em all down. Then you go [flick them] with your little finger. If you hit 'em, that's yours.

WN: Kinda like flat marbles.

NR: Yeah. Well, actually that was a girl's game. If the boys came, they were sissies. Like jacks. You know, if a boy played jacks, he was a sissy. Girls played girls' games, boys played boys' games.

WN: But you were a tomboy, yeah? (Laughs)

NR: You can tell I'm telling you about the games. I'm mostly interested in sports. When I went to McKinley, I ran track. Intramurals. I'm still interested in sports. I go and watch anything on TV that's sports whether I know the team or not. I go to watch my granddaughter run track at Punahou. She's (in the) seventh grade. Last Friday, she won her intermediate long jump.

WN: Your mother was a member of the Sons and Daughters . . .

NR: Native Sons and Daughters and . . . .

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

NR: We used to march in the Kamehameha Day Parade. I belonged to the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors when I was a kid because my mother was [a member].

She was [also a member of] Native Sons and Daughters. That's a different one. She was [with the] Republican Central Committee. She was a YLI. You know, Young Ladies' Institute. She was [a member of] Hawaiian Civic Club.

Sixth grade. I forget when he [i.e., Prince Kūhiō] died.

WN: Nineteen twenty-two, he died. You were about twelve years old.

NR: About twelve. He lay in state in Kawaiaha'o Church for one week. I went only one day just for a little while. They took turns, you

know, how they stand watch. About six of us would, with short kāhilis and just fan, keep the flies away. They had flies in Kawaiaha'o Church. I remember that.

(I was seven) years old, I think, when [Queen] Lili'uokalani died [in 1917]. I remember my mother had to go and march. They marched nighttime from Waikīkī to the ['Iolani] Palace.

My mother used to go stand watch on those kinds of holidays. They go up there [i.e., Royal Mausoleum] and stand and sing. Those ladies with the black holokūs. My mother never wore the black.

The Native Sons and Daughters, we wore white. We had these feather capes made of crepe paper. We had yellow leis. Feather leis. I had, and my sister had the capes. I don't know whatever became of them. They rotted. They were (made of) paper anyway. But outside of that, I forgot what I told you the other day.

WN: I think you told me everything. Well, thank you very much.

NR: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW

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